

- a. an oxygen permeable material formed into a closed packet for holding an oxygen absorber;
- b. an oxygen absorber comprising iron within the packet of (a); and
- c. a liquid oxygen uptake accelerator, said accelerator comprising water, said accelerator being present in an amount relative to the amount of said oxygen absorber, such that when the liquid accelerator and oxygen absorber are brought into contact by injection, the oxygen absorber is capable of reducing the oxygen content of a predetermined volume containing about 2 vol. % oxygen to less than 0.5 vol. % oxygen at a temperature of about 34°F in no more than 90 minutes after said accelerator and oxygen absorber are brought into contact

17. (Amended) A method of reducing the oxygen concentration in an enclosed space comprising:

- a. placing an oxygen scavenging packet within said enclosed space, said oxygen scavenging packet comprising:
 - i. an oxygen permeable material formed into a closed packet; and
 - ii. an oxygen absorber within said closed packet, said oxygen absorber comprising iron;
- b. introducing, by injection, a liquid oxygen uptake accelerator comprising water directly onto said oxygen absorber, wherein said liquid oxygen uptake accelerator is introduced in an amount relative to the amount of said oxygen absorber, such that when the oxygen uptake accelerator and oxygen absorber are brought into contact, the oxygen absorber is capable of reducing the oxygen content of a predetermined volume containing about 2 vol.

% oxygen to less than 0.5 vol. % oxygen at a temperature of about 34°F in no more than 90 minutes after said oxygen uptake accelerator and oxygen absorber are brought into contact.

Please insert new claims 22-25 as follows:

--22. The oxygen scavenging packet of Claim 1, wherein said injection is performed by a syringe.

23. The oxygen scavenging packet of Claim 1, wherein said injection is performed by an automated metering and dispensing pump.

24. The method of Claim 17, wherein said injection is performed by a syringe.

25. The method of Claim 17, wherein said injection is performed by an automated metering and dispensing pump.--

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 11-21 are pending in this application and are rejected by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended and Claims 22-25 have been added by this reply. Reconsideration of the present application, in light of the following remarks, is hereby requested.

Section § 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 11, 13-15, 17-19, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4, 588,561 to Aswell (hereinafter referred to "Aswell"). As described in the present application, the oxygen uptake accelerator, in this case water or acetic acid, must be contained within the oxygen scavenging packet in order to increase the rate of oxygen absorption. Page 8, lines 25-27 of the application. Specifically, the introduction of water or an aqueous solution of acid in the oxygen absorber packet of an iron-